

Notice of Public Meeting of a Public Body

Sections 7.6, 7.7.4 and 7.9.1

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING OF THE –
Governor's Forest Health Council**

Pursuant to A.R.S. Section 38-431, notice is hereby given to the members of the Forest Health Council and to the general public that the **Forest Health Council** will hold a meeting open to the public:

March 12, 2009

9:00 am – 12:00 pm

**County Supervisors Association Building
1905 West Washington Street, Suite 100
Phoenix, AZ**

Meeting Objective: To meet the new State Forester, to receive an update on economic stimulus projects and priorities identified by the state, to update the council on the Four Forests Strategy to Accelerate Forest Restoration, to receive an update from the WUI Fire Code working group, to discuss the Scorecard, and to review the workplan, set priorities, and schedule presentations through August.

- 1) Call to order Ethan A, Molly P., Rob D., Steve R., Cam H., Mark B., Larry S., Rob.S, Lucy M., Wally C., Ron W., Don B., Vicki C., Darrell W. Tom K., Mark H., Norris D., Steve G., Glen B.

Don Berry is a new appointee to the council. He is serving as a representative of the White Mountain Stewardship board. He is a retiree from Colorado where he served as a county commissioner and director of the Colorado Timber Association. He was referred by Supervisor Tenney.

Brenda Burman with The Nature Conservancy will be also appointed to the council and her appointment will be formalized on the upcoming meeting.

- 2) Approval of the Minutes from the February FHC meeting approved with edits
Item # 3 add Natural Resources Policy Advisor to Mike Anable name.
Item #7 name changes to the working group. Mark Brehl, Chief Willis, Larry Stephenson, and Norris Dodd.
- 3) Welcome Victoria Christiansen – Arizona State Forester
Vicki is a lifelong resident of Washington and a graduate of the University of Washington. She worked for the WA Dept. of Natural Resources for 26 years, the last 2 ½ years as the State Forester. Vicki is an active member of the National Association of State Foresters and member of the Fire Committee. Vicki is thrilled that the FHC is so active and is impressed with the Statewide Strategy. She emphasized the importance of the social, economic and environmental values of forests to Arizona's future population. She quoted from a book, Last Child in the Woods, on how sustainability is important to enhance connections with nature. Her vision and challenge the council is to set goals and values that are viable for private, federal, and state land looking to 2050 as an appropriate time horizon.
Vicki also provided background on the 2008 Farm Bill. The bill challenged states to produce a strategic plan. Governor Brewer is fully supporting the council and the work that has been accomplished. She is setting forth an executive order for the Forest Health Council under her administration. The new executive order will state any priorities and themes that the council feels is important to address. It was affirmed that there will be no redirection and that the council should continue the work in progress. The new executive order will bring additional members to fill in any missing points of expertise. Vicki will serve as the state's representative, recognizing that Mike Anable will not be able to attend most FH meetings.

The council was asked to bring into discussion any priorities and themes that should be suggested to the new administration for support.

1. The Forest Health Council has built substantial agreement regarding forest management. The Council should be charged with continuing to maintain and build such agreement.
2. The Forest Health Council should continue to explore and recognize multiple benefits accruing from restoration.
3. There is a need to acknowledge the Statewide Strategy in the new Executive Order, and a need to keep the document alive through ongoing revision, adaptation, and updating.

4. Translating policy guidance and agreement into on-the-ground work is a high priority over the coming years.
 5. The Four Forests Initiative should continue to be a focus for the Council. The Council should continue to play an important role in the process, recognizing the role is likely to change as the effort moves towards on-the-ground implementation.
 6. We need to ensure that we are giving adequate coverage to issues across the entire state. The Firescape program in southeastern Arizona, and the White Mountain Stewardship Contract were mentioned in this context.
 7. There may be additional opportunities for addressing restoration issues outside of our traditional focal area (ponderosa pine forests and associated ecosystems). Riparian forests were mentioned in this context. Later in the discussion, ideas were offered for taking a broader approach to restoration, recognizing the need to address land health issues across multiple ecosystem types, ranging from higher elevation to lower elevation across the state. Ideas were offered regarding the tradeoffs between broader and narrower approaches to the Council's work.
 8. Climate change adaptation and mitigation seem to be issues of concern to many in the forest community, and could be addressed by the Council in the future.
 9. The Forest Health Council should track in some fashion forest plan revisions.
 10. The Statewide Assessment was mentioned as an upcoming priority for the State Forester, and a possible area of collaboration for the Council.
- 4) Update from Arizona State Forestry on economic stimulus money projects and priorities – Cam Hunter
The American Recovery Reinvestment Act 2009 provided \$250 million for state and private forestry projects nationwide. The department had three working days to put together a package that would recognize 26 shovel ready projects across the state, including tribal projects. The package would identify projects that would create jobs, would help with hazardous fuel reduction and restoration and forest health.

Denise was hired as the grants coordinator for state forestry. She has been busy working on stimulus requests. In January 2009, the state of Arizona received \$7million with a 90/10 match and will have updated information by April 10th. The stimulus information can be viewed on the homeland security website for updates. Ethan suggested that updates on providing information on how the money will be spent over the next 2 years could be added to the council's agenda.

- 5) Update/discussion regarding the Four Forests Strategy to Accelerate Forest Restoration ~ Ethan Aumack, Molly Pitts and Lucy Murfitt
10 resolutions have been passed (7 Arizona Counties, Eastern Arizona Counties Organization, County Supervisor Association and the Northern Council of Governments). The Statewide Strategy and the Wood Supply is consistent with the Governor's letter of support from 2008. A letter from Congresswoman Ann Kirkpatrick indicates her strong support. The Forest Service has submitted a letter of commitment to the council that it states the appreciation and leadership that the council has taken and commits to move forward with accelerated restoration.

The Forest Service and some members of the Forest Health Council had a conversation regarding the acceleration strategy. Future steps will be maximally inclusive.

- 6) Update regarding WUI Fire Code working group ~ Ron Williams

Mark B., Chief Willis, Larry Stephenson, Norris Dodd are working in this group.

Ron met with a Firewise committee group where recommendations and strategies for next targeted areas were suggested. The targeted areas that were suggested were Payson, Williams, Pinetop-Lakeside and the fire districts of Heber and Greer. The only current WUI codes adopted have been for Flagstaff, Prescott, Sedona and Pima County. Recommendations were offered regarding moving this issue forward at the county vs. city/town level.

- 7) Update/discussion regarding Statewide Strategy Scorecard and preamble language ~ Glen Buettner and Ethan Aumack
Discussions were held regarding the possibility for the state university system to provide assistance in completing and continuing to implement the scorecard, with collaborative guidance from the Council. ERI will present this option with more details at the next meeting.
- 8) FHC workplan review and update ~ Ethan Aumack and Molly Pitts
- a. 2009 priorities

b. Presentations through August

A Climate Change session will be held in conjunction with the April council meeting. The presentation will take about 3 hours with presentation, panel speakers and question and answers. The meeting will be extended until 2:30p.

9) Meeting schedule and locations

a. April 16, 2009, County Supervisors Association Building

Meeting cannot be held at CSA due to meeting conflict. Next meeting will be held at the Game and Fish Facility.

10) Call to the Public – none

This is the time for the public to comment. Members of the Board may not discuss items that are not on the agenda. Therefore, action taken as results of public comment will be limited to directing staff to study the matter or scheduling the matter for further considerations and decisions at a later date.

Dated this April 15th, 2009
Governor's Forest Health Council
<http://www.governor.state.az.us/FHC/>

CO-CHAIRS

Ethan Aumack – Grand Canyon Trust

Molly Pitts, Northern Arizona Wood Products Association

Person with a disability may request a reasonable accommodation such as a sign language interpreter, by contacting Diana Arroyo-Ochoa 602-771-1126 or dianao@azcommerce.com. Requests should be made as early as possible to arrange the accommodation.